1723



<u>PATENTS</u> IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1723

Examiner:

P.D. File No.: H0001323

In re Application of: RONALD E. HIGHSMITH

Serial No.: 09/855,480 Filed: May 15, 2001

For: BENEFICIATED SLUDGE

Colonial Heights, VA 23834

August 9, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 - 1.98

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, applicant(s) hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed no later than three months from the applications filing date and therefore no certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e) or fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application.

Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

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Serial No. 09/855,480 5/15/01

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP § 609.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Melanie f. Berun

Melanie L. Brown Applicants' Attorney Registration No. 31,592

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICES AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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